

**America's Great Outdoors
Comments From Comment Cards**

Location: Bozeman, Montana

Date: June 2, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are comments from the comment cards collected at the Listening Session. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Comment Card Questions:

1. What are the most critical conservation challenges facing our nation today?
2. What are the best strategies to address these challenges?

Source of Comments	Organization (If available)	Comment (Verbatim for Comment Cards)
Challenges	Preserve Our Valley	To put into practice the multiple of environmental evidence on protecting our wildlife, their dispersal and migration. This needs to be a priority, especially for wildlife corridors near national parks, specifically Yellowstone in this area. An educational component is important to educate the next generation. The surface Transportation Act of 1991 adapted by Montana that allows commercial semi trucks (long haul) to go on any Mt. roads. MOOT has therefore made all roads accessible to the large semis and not all roads should carry semi trucks. Work with Montana Corridor association to agree to preserve our ecologically sensitive areas. The things that work are the Montana Dept. of Transportation and local community support.

Strategies	Preserve Our Valley	Take the environmental evidence, map out the corridors and dispersal areas, protect these areas so that the wildlife can move as freely as possible. Limiting our rerouting commercial semi truck traffic in ecologically sensitive areas is critical in this effort. The Western Gainers Resolution must be followed. Use environmental reports to determine corridors and disturbance areas. Educational corridors for schools to teach to the next generation. The government should support our efforts to support wildlife corridors in the entire state of Montana, especially the Madison Valley as well as Idaho and Gallatin Valley, Hwy 191.
Challenges	American Canoe Association via Outdoor Alliance	Clean, abundant, accessible and protected water.
Strategies	American Canoe Association via Outdoor Alliance	Organize communities to develop local strategies to protect waterways. Educate and train children on water clean and free. Employ state and federal guidelines for oversight and regulations.
Challenges	MSU	Maintaining enough continuous wild land to allow ecosystems functions. Conserving soil that will allow sustainable agriculture forest and ecosystem function.
Strategies	MSU	Research is required to better determine what it takes to maintain functioning ecosystems. Assume that larger continuous wild areas will maintain ecosystems functioning and facilitate purchase of lands to make continuous wild lands.
Challenges	Northern Lights Trading Company	Funding for parts and balancing "mixed". Human caused destruction of our natural resources, such as global warming (climate change), uncontrolled logging, mining and its associated consequences such as the current crisis in the Gulf.

Strategies	Northern Lights Trading Company	Make our parks and forests a priority in the federal budget. Think long-term when we decide what we want to use our land and resources for.
Challenges	Madison Valley Coalition	Protecting wildlife migration corridors like the Madison valley. Protecting and preserving water sources. Preserving land.
Strategies	Madison Valley Coalition	Reduce traffic speed and eliminate long-haul trucks from the Madison Valley. Implement setbacks on riders and eliminate dumping and pollution. Corridor development and get more land into conservation easements.
Challenges	Mt. Recreation and Parks Association	It is critical that outdoors activities and the facilities to provide them are able at all levels. Local governments and states have increasing use, aging infrastructure and limited staff and operations to provide these types of opportunities close to populations and with easy access.
Strategies	Mt. Recreation and Parks Association	Fully fund the LWCF with equal funding to the stateside to provide operate and maintain local recreational opportunities
Challenges	No Organization Available	Water and energy conservation, requiring a paradigm shift from the currently unsustainable "American way of life". Ensuring access to public land boundaries
Strategies	No Organization Available	Support grassroots efforts with federal and state money. Tough legislation to face individuals and cooperation to take appropriate action.

Challenges	Concerned Conservationist and User of public lands for recreation for 35 years	We are not creating any more lands, but we are supporting more people. We must preserve our diverse and unique public lands and landscapes, watersheds, wildlife, fish and bird habitats for future generations and engage young people in their protection. Uses must be appropriate not destructing public lands belonging to all Americans- whether or not they even visit them- they are out national heritage. Local people must avoid seeing these lands as theirs not ours. Politics, money and climate change.
Strategies	Concerned Conservationist and User of public lands for recreation for 35 years	Engaging all stakeholders in a collaborative approach resulting in solution on issues of public lands for the common good. Uses must be sustainable. Bring people together to solve problems- leave divisive rhetoric behind.
Challenges	Bozeman city Commission	How do share access to wilderness and outdoors without people feeling left out- There should be NO snowmobiles in National Parks- but there should be places for them - some with atv's on some trails etc. Balancing is the key!
Strategies	Bozeman city Commission	To create buy in for balance- by insisting on more dialogue and more education
Challenges	Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Climate change and building resilience into our ecosystems so they can adapt to this change. Connecting people to natural landscapes and fostering future conservation leadership. Protecting our remaining core habitats on public and private lands that do not currently have permanent protection
Strategies	Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Local partnerships informed by the best available science. Fed govt providing funding and technical assistance to inform collaborative partnerships. Support for legislative efforts that grow from local collaborations such as SB 1470- The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

Challenges	No Organization Available	1.Climate Change 2. Land Fragmentation 3. Resource Extraction
Strategies	No Organization Available	1. Carbon initiative- pricing 2. development guidelines 3. use less/ guidelines
Challenges	No Organization Available	Many people in our country have a short term. Selfish, greedy attitude
Strategies	No Organization Available	Manage our resources for future generations not for short term profits
Challenges	Montana State Legislature	Fractal landscapes form development sprawl, great demands in fewer resources - (water, air) as well as transportation routes. Threat of "no net gain "of public lands is strong in Montana, but is very shorts sided and destructive. Please protect against "no net gain" policies.
Strategies	Montana State Legislature	Protective laws for watersheds and lands including cluster developments and enforced air and water quality standards
Challenges	Craighead Environmental Research Institute	Climate Change- Environmentally destructive energy development . Development of critical national ecosystems habitat alteration/ destruction. Human Population growth.
Strategies	Craighead Environmental Research Institute	Maintain large intact national areas that are interconnected to allow movement of animals and plants as the climate changes
Challenges	Member, Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation Steering Committee	Reconciling agenda 21 goals and maintaining private property rights. Agenda 21 specifically eliminates private property rights as well as most agricultural freedom. We cannot destroy these freedoms without destroying our way of life.
Strategies	Member, Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation Steering Committee	Revise our game flow to promote not destroy private property rights. Most of the best managed lands in American are privately owned and the worst are federally owned

Challenges	Montana State University, Dept. Of Energy	Fundamentally, recognized that current populations density and levels of resource consumption create pressure on ecosystems and wildlife that did not operate as strongly in the past. Consequently stronger policies for preservation of ecosystem function and species conservation are necessary.
Strategies	Montana state university dept. of energy	1. strong federal policy for the preservation and expansion of protected areas and endangered species! 2. strong federal policy to internalize the environmental cost of economic activity for extractive/ pollution activities. (as with ozone, so2). 3. Strong federal promotion of the development of carbon-neutral energy.
Challenges	C.B.U. (Citizens for Balanced Use, Back Country Horsemen	Maintain historic western culture of agriculture producers and recreation of the past 100 years.
Strategies	C.B.U. (Citizens for Balanced Use, Back Country Horsemen	Back to basics, of sustainable and recreation and natural resource management
Challenges	Trust for Public Land	No Comment Available
Strategies	Trust for Public Land	Fully fund WCF. Plus more and into working lands conservation programs like FRPP, GRP, FLP, WRP
Challenges	NPCA- Northern Rocks Regional Office	Loss of land at alteration/ development -Climate Change - Degraded/ Damaged landscape
Strategies	NPCA- Northern Rocks Regional Office	Adequate funding of NPS, LWCF to protect the core and critical landscapes. Work across boundaries to protect large landscapes. National parks are the key to the AGO initiative, start there. Fund what worlds, RCTS programs, youth deer program.

Challenges	No Organization Available	Conservation issues in Montana are most successfully addressed by bottom-up, grass roots efforts that are based on collaboration. These are inclusive of multiple issues (forestry, weeds, wildlife, water) and the local privatization of the issues
Strategies	No Organization Available	The best strategy to address the challenge that these groups face is support through programs such as funding. The cooperative watershed management act, land and water conservation fund and others
Challenges	No Organization Available	Perhaps the most overlooked conservation challenge is the impact of invasive species. They harm our ecology and economy in many ways but the impact is often hidden in ways that prevent people from understanding the extent of the threat.
Strategies	No Organization Available	Most land managers recognize the impact of invasive but lack of resources and agency commitment. Reenergize NISC give it the same emphasis as the Clinton administration did. 2. Include basic funding for invasive in agencies and field units.
Challenges	Great Old Bruards for Wilderness, SUWA, Wildlands CPR, Audubon, Sierra Club	Lack of understanding that all the natural world is connected and we are part of this web. Showing how a philosophy of what is the common good is important not just "what's in it for me"? Implementation use of education in schools about connectedness. Get children off electronic games. Understanding how to show people to understand what each does and what one state does affects all of us. (environment is not a bad word)
Strategies	Great Old Bruards for Wilderness, SUWA, Wildlands CPR, Audubon, Sierra Club	Keeping connection to outdoors in forefront of children. Lack of understanding of importance of natural world, everything we were given for free! We cannot create new native shows how native Americans, an ancient cultural sites are important

Challenges	No Organization Available	1. Leaving natural resources, especially wildlife, of NPA Parks unimpaired for the use of enjoyment of future generations. 2. To easy, inexpensive access, for use and resulting degradation, to our public lands, by private interests at the expense of public interest. 3. Dewatering rivers and streams 4. Continuing decline of wildlife toward endangerment.
Strategies	No Organization Available	1. NPS get back to its most basic, oldest mission 2. Revise update the 1972 Mining Act 3. Fully fund LWCA 4. Strategic land trades and purchases to enhance public benefits of public lands.
Challenges	Sierra Club	Climate change, all land management units within DOI must have explicit mandates to manage their lands for both present and future climate impacts. Decisions should be sound science. Climate smart management should focus on 3 main tactics 1. Protect adequate core areas, buffer areas and connecting corridors 2. Limit non-climate stressors (logging, ORV use, etc) 3. Interagency coordination with state and local counterparts to develop and implement ecosystems-wide climate-smart management programs
Strategies	Sierra Club	Regulations- 1. Mandates and guidelines 2. Collaboration between federal, state, local agencies and non profits 3. Involve local citizens and organizations
Challenges	Frontier Heritage and Alliance, 2802 Patrician Billing Mt. 54102	Pryer Mountains of south central Montana needs better protection of ancient sites and better protection of the land with control over 4 or 2 vehicles
Strategies	Frontier Heritage and Alliance, 2802 Patrician Billing Mt. 54102	More patrol over the mountain ranges to control vehicles and looter who raid ancient sites that are over thousand or more years old mountains should be under one agency

Challenges	Montana Watercourse	Coordinating diverse state/ federal/ local programs for common goals. Time- people are maxed with worlds and school responsibilities. Finding common ground between groups/ stakeholders that have antagonistic relationships.
Strategies	Montana Watercourse	Support financial and with policy local watershed/ conservation groups. Support flexibility with work and school programs to encourage people to get outside. Start educating kids about restoration early -middle school, continue through college, Support these programs. Support financiers for salaries for people working on these efforts.
Challenges	Citizen	1. wild land being locked up to all/ any activity other than walking/ back packing 2, good farm/ranch being subdivided 3. oil dependence
Strategies	Citizen	1, keeping lands open to monitories access, youth and the age will be better able to access these places, house specific trails/ paths for motorized access., Have specific trails for non motorized activity. 2. raise the estate taps or eliminate it. Better/ easier easements. Incentives for youth farmers/ ranchers 3. developed new oil strategies on lad not 50 miles out in the ocean.
Challenges	American Prairie Foundation/ Candsnorkeling	Keeping very large ecosystems in trust forever.
Strategies	American Prairie Foundation/ Candsnorkeling	Education- awareness of how we are human being are at part of nature rather than separate from it, and why it will enhance our lives.
Challenges	Bridge Bowl	open spaces, wild places, intact ecosystems, climate change
Strategies	Bridge Bowl	conservation alliances between public and private sector

Challenges	Ducks Unlimited Pheasants Forever	Loss of native wetlands (prairie pothole region) North central and north east MT. the Dakotas. Access to public land and those public dollars have been used on private lands
Strategies	Ducks Unlimited Pheasants Forever	Combined CRP and WRP programs, conservation easements on Private land that consider reasonable public access.
Challenges	No Organization Available	1. Over-zealous use of minor technicalities within the endangered species act.
Strategies	No Organization Available	Amend the act and grant more creditability (i.e., less vulnerability to frivolous lawsuits) to the environmental assessment process.
Challenges	Outdoor Industry Association	Engaging urban populations minority and youth populations in active outdoor lifestyles.
Strategies	Outdoor Industry Association	1. Complete streets 2. Connectivity of alternative trails and recreation networks in urban areas 3. recreation services and infrastructure
Challenges	Voting Citizen and taxpayer	The Federal government can't lock up millions of acres each administration and then fret about the lack of participation in the "great outdoors" providing more access to and through public lands. "Wilderness" legislation are putting too many recreational areas off-limits to all but a few able-bodied long-distance hikers. We need to be more creative and inclusive in how we define uses for these areas.
Strategies	Voting Citizen and taxpayer	More trails and existing roads open to motorized vehicles. We can take turns like what was done in the 70's in the Gallatin National Forest for snowmobilers and cross country skiers. They each has designated days of the week and or weeks of the month to be on the trails and roads, and it worked.
Challenges	Tree Fighting	Social Apathy

Strategies	Tree Fighting	Grant support to community based NGO's that represent sustainable projects and show more betting acumen.
Challenges	Defenders of Wildlife	Climate change, human intolerance, human indifference to conservation needs and values.
Strategies	Defenders of Wildlife	<p>Enforceable standards to maintain core needs and values. Financial and other assistance for coordination, communication and collaboration. Applied to a comprehensive national strategy to ensure wildlife and ecosystems can adjust to a changing climate and a national network of conservation lands sufficient to ensure all our wildlife and ecosystems will be available in abundance for future generations. Key strategies- maintain core areas such as public lands. Through short, clear, understandable and enforceable standards and through full funding for the land and water conservation fund. - Maintain wildlife and ecological connectivity including across private lands, through: strategies and programs that promote coexistence with wildlife and ecologically improved land management, including more funding for existing programs such as Forest Legacy Program, WDF- Livestock assistance program as applied to wildlife conflicts.</p>
Challenges	Future West	Managing and conserving our watersheds for clear water and habitat. Restore our degraded habitats. Promote thoughtful human development patterns. Connect conservation and local, sustainable food initiatives. Focus conservation efforts on large, reground linkages for biodiversity.

Strategies	Future West	Promote public-private partnerships and financially support them through programs and funds. Adjust government programs to fit current needs and conditions (i.e. WREP pilot for NRCS). Expands contracts or cooperative agreements between federal and state government and conservation NGO's and watershed groups.
Challenges	American Independent Business Alliance	Corporations wielding illegitimate power over election, public policy, public agencies and more.
Strategies	American Independent Business Alliance	Redefining corporations business entities without political rights. Rights are the domain of human beings and their fully voluntary associations.
Challenges	Gallatian Wildlife Association	Protection and connecting large wild landscapes. Protecting and connecting habitats for fish and wildlife (examples: bison, bighorn sheep, grizzly bears).
Strategies	Gallatian Wildlife Association	Protect habitat and promote regulated public hunting and fishing, fully fund land and waters conservation fund, Eliminate wasteful government intervention. Abandon ARS Domestic Sheep Experiment Station in Centennial Mountains. Abandon domestic sheep grazing on public land Bighorn sheep's habitat. Abandon Bison capture facilities at Stephens Creek Yellowstone National Park. Abandon bison capture facilities at Horse Butte on VFS land.
Challenges	Parks to Prairies Pollution Prevention Center	Water quality and quantity

Strategies	Parks to Prairies Pollution Prevention Center	Incentivizing water conservation and quality improvement Projects. Encouraging local communities to develop comprehensive water management plans, include all stakeholders (youth, feds, local government, private landowners etc.) if those plans are in place communities can receive federal financial incentives for water conservation and quality improvement projects
Challenges	Mt. Landowner	The control of our public and private lands. Federal level putting our state land into wildlife reserves. Treasured landscapes and grasslands. I also find it odd that the biggest place of the proposed wildlife refuge in eastern MT. is over a very large oil and gas deposit.
Strategies	Mt. Landowner	Let each state control their own land, put the people choice first. Let us vote at a state level.
Challenges	The Trust for Public Land	Funding for land and water conservation. Protecting resources while including all recreation users- balancing - maintain tools for working forest and ranchers.
Strategies	The Trust for Public Land	Full funding for land and water conservation fund
Challenges	No Organization Available	Global climate change, motorized use poorly managed, over grazing on public land
Strategies	No Organization Available	Passage of global climate change legislation, better and less political management by our federal agencies.
Challenges	SELF	1. Do not lock up public land (national monuments) to eliminate timber, mineral, oil extraction. Especially in the Baitken Shall Area 2. Do increase access to public lands. Even through mandatory easements. 3. man made climate change is bull shit.

Challenges	No Organization Available	Top Issue: global warning + plans to adapt to it for example. Beetle killed trees cover 1/2 of our forest in some places, when the entire forest burn this summer or next, where will the wildlife go? How will we handle the remaining bare hills for the next 20 years? How will we address the water degradation, spill it's too late to save the tree but not too late to have a recovery plan. Another example is the declining waters- drill more water wells, dam some streams have the coastal communities use desalinized water from the ocean rather than keep taking fresh water from the west.
Strategies	No Organization Available	Anticipate and adapt- don't keep on business as usual, head in the sand. Don't spend money to keep/ replace status quo
Challenges	Park Conservation District	1. The lack of awareness and knowledge of the role of agriculture in this nation 2. the lack of wildlife management by federal agencies wildlife belongs to public, state of Montana
Strategies	Park Conservation District	1. Agriculture education in curriculums nationwide. Public outreach and education. 2. Manage wildlife rather than putting responsibility on ranchers. Be accountable
Challenges	Bozeman Mountaineers Land Club	The influence of lobbyists and legal action is causing very little to actually happen. Almost all groups that use the lands want to preserve and develop better opportunities to use land. All the involvement is causing very little action
Strategies	Bozeman Mountaineers Land Club	Leave the lands to the locals. The Federal government cannot manage all the lands of this nation. The federal lands are owned by locals.
Challenges	Tree Fight	Pine Beetles and blisher rust in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
Strategies	tree fight	TreeFight.org

Challenges	Mt. Senate-National Trust	Remember balance between natural resources and cultural resources
Strategies	Mt. Senate-National Trust	Broad involvement coordinated leadership and education
Challenges	Tree Fight.org	Global Warming. Dwindling interest in the outdoors among children.
Strategies	Treefight.org	Education. Participating outdoor conservation programs
Challenges	REI	Kids are out future conservationist, and they are spending, less time outdoors and more time on the couch. We need to find ways to re-connect children with the outdoors, whether on a large scale (trails, national parks) or small scale (urban parks)
Strategies	REI	Rather than reducing school budgets for physical education (and art, music) our government needs to ensure adequate funding or even increasing it. Public school curriculum should include field trips to local parks for in depth exploration of the local landscapes, whether it is examining a square of soil, the diversity of wetlands and kids get engaged in their environment on a small, local scale they are more inclined to maintain an interest and get involved on a larger scale.
Challenges	Society for Range Management	Future generations will judge us favorably if we are able to sustain what we have today. In the Rocky Mountains West, the best way to sustain out open spaces, forest and range land ecosystems, and wildlife habitat is to sustain our working landscapes. Working landscapes provide the buffer to public lands and the corridors between public lands.

Strategies	Society for Range Management	. Estate tax relief for working farmers and ranchers. Continued livestock grazing on public lands. Federal conservation programs that are incentive-based that reward people for doing the right things. Use land and water conservation funds to fund projects of local working groups, not just federal land acquisition. Include term easements as well as perpetual easements in federal programs
Challenges	Retired Panner/ Policy Manager	Sprawl, development pressure, special interest influence pork barrel politicians, programs and policies working at cross purposed, lack of definition of the public interest
Strategies	Retired Panner/ Policy Manager	Bottom up national development plan (including industrial and conservation components) to be the basis for all federal funding of infrastructure, subsidies, land use regulations, energy development etc. Resurrect the old 701 planning grant to combine city- county councils of government.
Challenges	Granger Ranches Ennis, Mt 59726	Funding, climate change, energy demand. Pollution, education
Strategies	Granger Ranches Ennis, Mt 59726	education, fund LWCF, work with local groups to support successful programs and efforts
Challenges	University of Mt. Center for Environmental Health Sciences	Protecting water quality, ensuring adequate water supply to meet out growing needs. Understanding critical connection between air quality- water quality, resources. Fostering stewardship ethic array youth through education (k-12, informal education, after school programs ect). Curbing the trend among youth to remain sedentary and inactive. Public health issues are enormous, there needs to be a cross-disciplinary interagency efforts to address these or the healthcare budget will overshadow everything else and become our biggest priority.

Strategies	University of Mt. Center for Environmental Health Sciences	Include youth in more outdoors oriented activities that teach them about the connection that exists between ecosystem health and human health. Michelle Obama works "Let's Move Outside" is very important-- Try to integrate this with science education. Public health crises like the obesity epidemic, asthma prevalence and even autoimmune dysfunction all have connections with sedentary lifestyle. Academic performance is boosted by exercise. Integrate movement by health and science subjects in k-12 education.
Challenges	Thirteen Mile Farm	An ecologically and nutritionally bereft agricultural commodity systems that could be restored to a more diverse, healthy, economical vibrant systems that would not only address the key concerns voiced by Michelle Obama but would also reach into virtually all of our sociological / economic/ political issues
Strategies	Thirteen Mile Farm	Change the subsidy system/ Introducing and ecologically understanding at the highest levels to counterbalance the misguided intimate relations between government regulators and administrators and technological/ corporate AG.
Challenges	No Organization Available	Climate change and lack of funding for the agencies responsible for management of open spaced (forest service, NPS, etc). Corporate resources extraction co leasing unsustainable extraction techniques over use as the U.S. population increases. More open space is becoming criticized for both humans and wildlife.

Strategies	No Organization Available	Education! At a very young age. Mandatory service projects in our public and private schools with a conservation based program. Reduce the development and prioritize these defense funds for conservation of open space for both our public and private lands. Utilize exactly organizations, timber, conservation, recreation, bring them together and dialog as a group to work in concerted effort for restoration and protection. There are plenty of groups in existence with their own expertise already established. The great outdoors initiative would best serve this country by bringing these varies groups together.
Challenges	Self	Destruction of wildlands by motorized recreationalists
Strategies	SELF	Preservation of wildlands. Enforcement of existing laws, eliminate motor vehicles from 50% of public lands
Challenges	Interested Public	DOI/ BLM comments in attached letter
Strategies	Interested Public	Health habitat education- how to be in wild lands. Access to public lands to much public lands is locked up for example NLCS- upper Missouri River Breaks MN only 22% of the monuments is open to the public without land owner permission.
Challenges	Winter Wildlands Alliance/ Outdoor Alliance	Using public lands to protect winter ecosystems and opportunities for non-motorized winter recreation
Strategies	Winter Wildlands Alliance/ Outdoor Alliance	Mandate the forest service to conduct winter travel planning
Challenges	Sonoran Institute	Climate change, Ecosystem degradation, fragmentation. Public values for ecosystem, natural resources.

Strategies	Sonoran Institute	The best science possible, widely shared, collaboratively acted upon, communication to the public- engagement. Large scale restoration and conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, key resources- water, wildlife reg. communications. Leadership building engagement of people, groups to address conservation- changes accruing on the landscape
Challenges	Touch the Sky	Education and empowerment of future generations. Lax attitude of ability to change anything
Strategies	Touch the Sky	Assisting non-profit and private organizations
Challenges	Montana Wilderness Association	Climate change, energy, natural resource protection
Strategies	Montana Wilderness Association	Protect public lands with protective designations- National monuments, conservation allows on Wilderness Area of Concern is the Pryor Mountains which needs of protective designation so that the three land management (BLS, FS, Park Service) will have a common set of values for managing the Pryors
Challenges	Friends of the Story DNC	Water
Strategies	Friends of the Story DNC	Tax incentives for personal conservation- ex. Water educate for water conservation
Challenges	Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition (SMCC)	Addressing climate change to preserve our natural landscape. Access to outdoor opportunities- climbing, mtn biking, hiking, skiing ect. Exposing youth to outdoor activities. Protecting wildlife corridors. Support local sustainable food.
Strategies	Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition (SMCC)	Local input and management. Making funds available to local organization so they can do their important work

Challenges	No Organization Available	Safeguarding and expanding the large-scale, contiguous wilderness areas needed to ensure the continued existence of ecosystems and animal populations. Lack of public understanding of the precious treasures that America enjoys and which are no longer found in highly developed areas of the world.
Strategies	No Organization Available	Provide greater financial incentives for private landowners to seek conservation easements or dedicate their lands to the public. Promulgate the benefits to the nation when children can walk and ride bicycles to school and around their neighborhoods. Incentivize the construction of community trails that serve all ages and not just drivers sixteen years and older.
Challenges	PERC	Getting kids outdoors and interested in their environment
Strategies	PERC	Outdoor education programs in schools. Modern technology in National Parks so that kids will be more excited to learn and visit
General Comments	Public Land User/ Recreationalist	Repeal the no more wilderness settlement in Utah. Right now, millions of acres of wilderness quality lands in Utah are hanging in limbo. Many of those acres hold vast archaeological and cultural resources and would benefit from the additional protection that wilderness designation would provide. Fund the BLM, to protect the cultural resources. Archeological sites in Utah are being looted and destroyed at an alarming rate. Last year federal investment and subsequent legal action against looters in Blanding is not a start. Just field officers in the Monticello BLM is not enough to manage 1.8 million acres!!

General Comments	Preserve Our Valley (Madison Valley Mt. 87, US 287)	<p>Thank you to the President and U.S. Government for taking on this very important issue. We must protect the environment we live in and the animals with which we share this environment. They cannot protect themselves and if we do not do it, it will be our undoing. Our children must carry on the legacy in an even stronger way. Montana Dept. of Transportation and other organizations that can make a difference to make this wildlife corridor issue and immediate priority. The Western Governor's Association suggestions regarding wildlife corridors must be implemented.</p>
General Comments	tree fight	<p>Tree fight is a scientific and social experiment that ultimately aims to prevent the extinction of the Whitebark Pine. The purpose of Treefight is twofold: First to raise awareness of Yellowstone's most serious environmental calamity in recorded history, and second to investigate solutions into this massive ecological problem. A regionally groundbreaking efforts, Treefight is using modern digital tools, social media and grassroots volunteerism to tackle an environmental problem that is rooted in climate change. Volunteers will experience and share with the world.</p>
General Comments	Citizens For Balanced Use. Back Country Horsemen	<p>These meetings need to be held in a town hall format in all of the small communities so that all of 8-5 working people and at producers can attend not be an inconvenience to them, and not cater just to the special interests groups.</p>

General Comments	Northern Lights Trading Company	Wilderness and parks, forest service and BLM land are all important to me personally and professionally. Our forests and rivers are why so many of us live and recreate in MT. Balanced use is important, but preservation can help keep our recreational opportunities pristine. Thank you for giving us this opportunity.
General Comments	American Canoe Association via Outdoor Alliance	Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts. Count on us for support and leadership in helping communities organize safe access. We are the number one educators of canoe and kayak instruction and work for 2 million people who paddle every year. We work/ veterans and kids to carry on the heritage.
General Comments	Bozeman city Commission	A problem is that these sessions allow all comment, but does not encourage dialogue. The guy next to me is a logger, I can learn from him and he from me but we won't really get to talk. Smaller groups would be better to organize but would create better understanding and better ideas that are supported by all. So this was a good start-how can dialogue be created? Smaller groups.

General Comments	Greater Yellowstone Coalition	<p>The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem should be a priority landscape for the administration in developing and implementing strategies to reconnect people to nature. And conserve treasured landscapes. With Yellowstone national park at its heart, protecting the GYE also means protecting, restoring the wildlife migration corridors and watershed that surround the park. The administration should use all the tools available to further our nation's conservation legacy including: working with local groups to designate new areas and expand existing protecting areas (from wilderness degradation to new national monuments etc). Launching broad scale restoration efforts to improve degraded fragmented fish and wildlife habitats</p>
General Comments	Madison Valley Coalition	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to come together with like minded individuals. I would be interested in participating in more projects that would help preserve and protect wildlife, water and lands in Madison Valley of Montana</p>
General Comments	Future West	<p>Prioritize GYE as a key area that connects the biodiversity of Yellowstone to wilderness areas in ID, crown of the continent and rocky mountain front. Existing programs need to match needs and conditions currently on the landscape- adjust these. Make cooperative agreements lasion and plentiful so local NGO's can add capacity and technical expertise to state and federal government programs. Promotes success stories- use media and social marketing promote multi-model transportation to trail systems,</p>

General Comments	Family Farmer	Agriculture other suffer additional restrictions when public lands are discussed. The populations of the world is to be doubled by 2050 and agriculture must represent to feed this inexpand. Continued and increased funding for agriculture research in land, water and terrain, that will allow increased food production must continue. Access to public lands for all people must improve.
General Comments		Timber could be useful (e.g. 2 minutes max) with a bell!
General Comments	Bridge Bowl	Thank you President Obama more of this bottom- up approach
General Comments	Concerned Conservationist and User of public lands for recreation for 35 years	Thank you so much for listening, engaging all of us in a huge challenge how to maintain and enhance our outstanding system of public lands at a time of population growth and economic downturn, a time of climate change that will certainly affect many of our natural resources. Political divisiveness after stands in the way of collaborative solutions concerning out public lands. Sen. Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act shows that there is a better way; Users must be regulated to provide for the common good- the best for the most in the long run. TR had it right- the recognized the diminishment of our landscapes as wildlife disappeared. We must make sure this never happens again. Inappropriate private uses- like overgrazing and industrialization- threaten biological diversity and out future. Decisions must be based on science!

General Comments	Mt Recreation and Parks Association	Thank you reinvigorating this discussion on outdoor recreation. It is important and commendable even during this time of economic and worldwide issues to address and provide outdoor recreation. It's an important part of our heritage and provides significant health, enjoyment and understanding of our part in the greater with of life and our responsibility to understand and care for it. Fully fund the LWCF with an equal allocation to the stateside of the LWCF.
General Comments	No Organization Available	I appreciate the idea of an initiative aimed at reconnecting Americans citizens with their public lands. Make it work.
General Comments	Montana State Legislative	Thank you for asking citizens and groups involved in their own environments and efforts in the Americas Great Outdoors in all its forms to engage at a local level to improve our outdoors. Please inventory the many efforts so that we may work together.
General Comments	No Organization Available	Thank you. I would like see outdoor boulders- artificial- build across the country. These boulder are low cost, low maintenance and multi generational. They are an introduction to outdoor recreation. I am willing to help in any manner possible.
General Comments	Craighead Environmental Research Institute	A healthy environment is the foundation our public health, our quality of life, and out sustainable economies. It has been overlooked because of the pressures on the Obama Administration from the problems inherited and some new ones that have developed (recession, war, oil spill ect). However we need to think about solving all our other problems within the framework of a healthy environment based on function natural ecosystems.

General Comments	Forest Stewardship Foundation Steering Communities	Any initiatives must enhance and protect private property rights, Every infringement and regulation that hinders property rights destroys the fabric of our nation. So much emphasis is put on accumulating more land in the public trust the emphasis should be on the stewardship responsibility of what you already control. The most unhealthy forests and watersheds are on public lands and some of the healthiest are on private grounds. There must be real meaning behind public/ private partnership.
General Comments	Dept. of Ecology, Montana State University	The top federal priorities that will benefit the outdoors in my opinion: Strong federal policy for expansion and preservation of wilderness and other ecologically functioning areas. And endangered species. Strong federal policy that causes extractive/ polluting activities to bear the environmental cost of those activities. Strong promotion of development of carbon-neutral energy. Full funding of land and water conservation act, ASAP.
General Comments	No Organization Available	Reconnecting children to the outdoors will only be accomplished by giving them repeated exposure to outdoor recreation. This required mentorship type programs that insure kids got an experience that is reinforced until child is both comfortable in the outdoors and capable of recreating on their own. This requires robust funding for salaries to coordinate and conduct mentorship programs.

General Comments	Great Old Bruards for Wilderness, SUWA, Wildlands CPR, Audubon, Sierra Club	I appreciate "Washington" coming to Montana. I appreciate that the issue are complicated facing the Administration regarding putting a value on nature. I am worried about what is happening in the world's oceans- over fishing, pollution. I thank the administration's for cancelling the Bush administrations last second oil and gas lease sale and instituting needed reforms for onshore drilling. End the BLM's "No New Wilderness" policy It's wrong to have surface and subsurface rights separate surface owner should own subsurface. Ranchers should not bar canoes, boaters, fishermen from access at bridges. RS2477 is being abused BLM and Forest service are asked to protect and sell off for lease land- allowing land abuse is this the fax guarding the hen house? No more natural world is being made, It's vital to our health- mentally, physically and spiritually.
General Comments	Frontier Heritage and Alliance, 2802 Patrician Billing Mt. 54102	Many good comments and feds need to listen to them
General Comments	Sierra Club	Thank you for coming here, Montana holds the last examples of large intact ecosystems in America. The only place in the lower 48 states where you can find grizzly bears, lynx, wolves, sage grouse, and wild bison! Wow!! Reconnecting youth to the outdoors should be as important as music and art education in schools- all of which is disappearing. The federal government needs to invest as much into these areas as the private, non profit sector has it's time to recommit to the areas that shaped America!

General Comments	M.S. Recreation Resources, Board Member and Watershed Council, former recreation planner at Mt. St. Helens and MT. Hood NF, now candidate for state legislature.	Models: Yellowstone Business Partnership, especially efforts for multi-models transportation, Montana Outdoor Science and other Youth Ed, and hunting programs. Needs/Suggestions: Consider parks and recreation activities as local infrastructure on equal par with and wastewater treatment. Bell programs and energy development policy. Support Farms- to School and Farm to Table programs to reduce transportation energy use, get healthier kids and conserve our agricultural landscapes. Maybe healthier kids would be willing to walk a mile to the fishery hole, rather than loving to ride an ATV. Support LWCF and fully fund. Enhance use of 023 (Recreation Planner) series in Forest Service, as well as Interpreter" series. If you want expert management you need experts doing the work. And encourage these discipline in colleges. (e.g. Recreation Resource Programs @ SCU-FT.Collins). Support testers watershed that will provide incentives and assistance for land, multi-interested watershed councils (e.g. Greater Gallatin Watershed Council). Thanks for the opportunity.
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General Comments	Oboz Footwear and concerned citizen	Connecting people to the outdoors, especially young people as they are our future, is incredibly important. The benefits of people spending time outdoors is multifaceted. Building a respect for the environment and desiring conservation/ protection efforts, exercise in the midst of childhood obesity epidemic and enjoyment. If we could use federal funds to help youth get plugged into groups like Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) to build a hut system similar to that in New Zealand and Europe, more people could get outside and get deeper into wilderness areas. This would bring money into our state and would create jobs now in the future.
General Comments		We have our agencies in place use them and stop appeals in could. Help us use or land practically without governing. Money which this our hands, If we could count our timber and open our mills it would bring dollars back to our schools put our people back to work. We don't need more govern closures on our lands, NO MORE WILDERNESS land of no use. If people want more trails and parks raise money privately and use volunteers. My main concern is losing my ranch three government control by zoning and not allowing me to do raise on my land. I want our water rights lift in Montana not sold to out of state.
General Comments	Bozeman Youth Imitative	Thank you for opportunity to share strategies looking forward to you new report
General Comments	Recreational Aviation Foundation	This is a great opportunity for you to hear local concerns. We appreciate it. Please don't try to make a one-size-fits-all type of program at the Federal Level. Local communities must like with energy decisions. Please let us implement your programs at our level.

General Comments	Land Snorkeling	Montana Black Management Program, which allows hunters to access private lands for a fee needs expansion and more funding. Both recreationalist and hunters and landowners want this but the program is limited by funding which only comes from out of state hunting fees. America needs a mandatory service year following high school to give urban and rural kids experience in the outdoors that otherwise are unattainable.
General Comments	tree fight	Tree fight addresses many of the issues and challenges addressed today. We are a volunteer force, pledged to prevent forest destruction through on-the-ground in-the-forest public participation. I'd offer, families, schools and recreationalists the opportunity to hike into and do the most famous forest in the world and help protect some of the most beautiful, ancient, productive trees in the U.S from continued beetle predation, and also provide them a means to share these experiences with the world. We would very much appreciate the government's support of this ground breaking programs.
General Comments	REI	Thanks for bringing such a diverse group together to talk about conservation and getting people outdoors. This is a great start and I hope these conversations are heard. Some of the topics felt were compelling: - working groups and non-profits are the way to get things done. The government should look more toward this model and use top-down management. - move focus on outdoor education/ stewardship in schools. -Eliminate estate tax to encourage farmers/ ranchers to stay on their land.

General Comments	Society for Range Management	The new century needs a new model for conservation. Large scale land acquisition and designation of new monuments, parks, and wilderness is the old model. The future is public/ private partnerships driven by local working groups. Hundreds of local working groups are working throughout the west. Funding needs to be available for these groups to accomplish on-the-ground conservation. The future is incentive-based conservation that rewards people for doing the right things and nurturing locally-led, volunteering efforts, verses the old model of top-down regulations.
General Comments	Retired Planner/ Policy Manager	Please use the output of this process as a foundation for a more inclusive visioning process that would become the conservation component of a national development plan. Do the same thing (simultaneously with the same people) for an industrial development component. Development and conservation are always antagonists and people need a national process to sort these out in their own heads.
General Comments	Conservation Land Foundation	Please issue a Secretarial Order to give specific directives to managers of the National Landscape System. Specifically it should include clear support for the conservation mission of the System, budget transparency line authority for the Director of the Conservation System, increased budget for conservation measures and staffing with the system.

General Comments	University of Mt. Center for Environmental Health Sciences	I'd like to see transitional research and programs that bridge biomedical NIH and form the basis of CDC initiatives including K-12 health science education. For example, research by Dr. John Ratey Spark (book) on the effect of exercise on brain function then boosting academic performance. These could be integrated into subject areas (health, science, math) and also play a role in how daily school schedules are structured. Universities and community-based organization could be instrumented in helping implement these programs. Channel these to inner city as well as underserved, rural areas. Provide support to school districts so that burden doesn't fall solely on teachers' shoulders. Involve conservation corps and local health departments.
General Comments	Tree Fighter Fort. Ellis Fire Department	Keep logging in place, we need logging to continue on federal lands for jobs, fire prevention and to keep trees healthy. By thinning out forest it will keep the beetle kill down and keep wild fires from getting out of hand. We need to keep federal lands open for ranching. Ranchers need the land for their cattle's. It would be detrimental to ranchers and loggers. We do not need to lose more jobs. Keep federal lands open to everyone.
General Comments	The Wilderness Society	Wild lands are important to Montanans for the services they provide, such as recreational opportunities that fund our economy. I'd like the administration to use all tools at its disposal to protect our public lands

General Comments	Friends of the Story DNC	Generally, balance of natural and cultural resources is important. Regarding cultural and historic landscapes. What works: SAT programs. Historic Preservation. The T.B. syoy Mansion. One of 3 full-block mansions in the state, built in 1910: Future Threatened and a SAT grands (layest ever awarded) limp-stated local preservation efforts-matched by City of Bozeman, prompted the founding of a non-profit to support city ownership. Without the SAT grants, i believe the property would have been ruled to a private owner, subdivided and its historic character lost, SAT established a value to preservation Historic Preservation stimulate economy promotes historic education and tourism. Please fund and expand and continue Save America's Treasure program.
General Comments	No Organization Available	Stop promoting Teddy Roosevelt if you are truly going for a ground-up approach. Many people associate President Roosevelt with resources socialism.
General Comments	Sonoran Institute	Many landscapes are degraded-much of BLM and USFS lands among them. I'd like to see a national attention to restoration- Healthy Lands Imitative has done a lot- perhaps a national designation of restoration lands. Then use science and metrics to measure progress and communicate the benifits (ecological and economic) to the public. This effort should include public- private partnership at landscape scale
General Comments	Montana Wilderness Association	The price which consumers pay of oil and gas should reflect the true cost to the environment
General Comments	Winter Wildlands Alliance/ Outdoor Alliance	Winter needs to be considered when developing strategies and the allocation of resources.

General Comments	Interested Public	There are so many people in the discussion (70+) each person speaks approximately 2 minutes. Each person has a great deal to say.
General Comments	Touch the Sky	Great focus on initiating and support of youth programs which get kids outside and empowered!
General Comments	Thirteen Mile Farm	<p>In the limited time that you - that we all - have to restore our relationship to each other and to earth, I believe it makes to focus of a few overreaching issues that simultaneously govern the multi- faceted challenge. The single most important thing this administration can is to help alter our agricultural subsidy systems which has led to a disproportionate dependence on the corn-soybean- feedlot machine the perverse incentives inadvertently created by the systems are at the root of our core issue. Dependence on petroleum, disruption and contamination of hydraulic systems of pollinator systems; immigration and labor imbalanced, urban/ rural divides; loss of habitat for away and other habitats, rural crimes, rural and urban obesity, diabetes, and other health issues and even inequitable unstable international relations. I value greatly our nationals efforts to care for specially designated protected areas, but this issue supersedes even that.</p>

General Comments	Peaks to Prairies Pollution Prevention Center	Encourage the development of locally driven, comprehensive water management plans at a community / watershed scale. With the development of these plans (stakeholders that much be involved include youth, local government, federal agencies, private landowners ect.) communities can receive federal or state financial incentives to institute/ implement water conservation, water quality restoration projects. Potential funding sources could include recreational equipment/ extractive industry tax... similar to hunting logger fees.
General Comments	Gallatian Wildlife Association	Regarding bruceccsis in wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area: bruceccosis eradication is not a reasonable goal. Reuse animal and plant health inspection service bruceccosis regulations. Clarify that bison are values native republic trust wildlife just like elk and other wildlife. Promote systems that manage livestock reasonably and wildlife ecologically. Phase out USFWS feedgrounds in Wyoming and promote habitat preservation work on better livestock vaccines- not wildlife
General Comments	MFU-Landowner	If we don't use our own resources we will be owned by midwest oil.
General Comments	No Organization Available	why do people come to these meeting and complain about drilling for oil and gas, then get in their cars and drive off.
General Comments	Landowner	Estate taxes on farms and ranches in burdensome. This will cause "old time" families to sell their lands to pay the taxes, passing ranches on to the next generation is becoming difficult at best. This is either breaks the lands into small parcels or locks it up by wealthy owners. Conservation Easement should have the tax benefits reinstated that sunsetted in 2009
General Comments	The Trust for Public Land	Thank you for beginning Americas Great Outdoors to Bozeman and Montana. It is a privilege for our community to participate

General Comments	Bozeman Mountaineers Land Club	Allowing recreation in our public lands is going to be a dying mission. The agendas of groups to allow their type of recreation is going to limit all recreation from happening. Trail maintenance and trail; building is going to be the future of forests. Do not allow public lands to become wilderness areas. allow all to use out lands
General Comments	Headwaters Economics	Reauthorize secure rural schools, but tie the payments to the condition of the land. Tie the payments to collaborative partnerships riparian restoration, carbon sequestration etc. For specifics, please contact me.